

**National Volunteer Fire Council**

1050 17th Street, NW, Suite 490, Washington, DC 20036; 202/887-5700 phone; 202/887-5291 fax  
www.nvfc.org • nvfcoffice@nvfc.org

September 30, 2003

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2107

Dear Representative Markey:

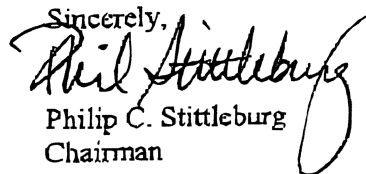
The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is a non-profit membership association representing the nearly 800,000 members of America's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Organized in 1976, the NVFC serves as the voice of America's volunteer fire personnel in over 28,000 departments across the country. On behalf of our membership, I am pleased to offer our support for the *Joseph Moakley Memorial Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 2003*. The NVFC believes that this bill represents an important step in reducing the number of fire deaths and injuries that occur in the United States each year. Our organization has been an outspoken proponent of fire-safe cigarette legislation for many years.

Every year, cigarettes are responsible for more than 150,000 fires. Nearly 1,000 people die and 2,000 are injured from cigarette-ignited fires. Many of these victims are innocent children. In addition, over \$450 million in property damage is caused each year by these fires. The implementation of a law that will help to prevent these senseless deaths is absolutely imperative.

By directing the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to issue a standard for cigarettes to reduce their risk of ignition, this legislation will help protect the safety of America's citizens and the firefighters sworn to protect them.

Once again, the NVFC commends your efforts to help make America's communities safer and save thousands of lives. We look forward to working with you in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass this legislation. If you or your staff have any questions or comments feel free to contact Craig Sharman, NVFC Director of Government Relations at (202) 887-5700 ext.12.

Sincerely,



Philip C. Stittleburg  
Chairman

cc: NVFC Legislative Committee  
Michael Bird, NVFC Massachusetts Director